

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. A print control method for a tandem
printing system having a host unit which supplies
print data to a plurality of printers which are
connected by a tandem-connection, said print control
10 method comprising the step of:

(a) controlling synchronous operations of the
plurality of printers by a single tandem control
unit which is operable independently of the host
unit and is provided independently of the plurality
15 of printers.

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2. The print control method as claimed in
claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(b) exchanging commands and/or status of the
plurality of printers with the host unit by the
tandem control unit.

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3. The print control method as claimed in
30 claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(b) controlling the plurality of printers to
carry out automatic loading of a continuous
recording sheet in synchronism with each other by
the tandem control unit.

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4. The print control method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(b) setting a non-printing transport mode in which no printing is carried out and only transport of a continuous recording sheet is made, with respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary printers of the plurality of printers.

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5. The print control method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(c) controlling the plurality of printers to carry out automatic loading of a continuous recording sheet in synchronism with each other by the tandem control unit.

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6. The print control method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising the step of:

(d) setting a non-printing transport mode in which no printing is carried out and only transport of the continuous recording sheet is made, with respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary printers of the plurality of printers.

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7. The print control method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) setting a non-printing transport mode in which no printing is carried out and only transport of a continuous recording sheet is made, with

respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary printers of the plurality of printers.

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8. A tandem printing system comprising:
a plurality of printers connected by a tandem-connection and printing print data with respect to a
10 continuous recording sheet;
a host unit supplying the print data to the plurality of printers; and
a single tandem control unit operable independently of the host unit and provided
15 independently of the plurality of printers,
said tandem control unit including means for controlling synchronous operations of the plurality of printers.

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9. The tandem printing system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said tandem control unit further
25 includes means for exchanging commands and/or status of the plurality of printers with the host unit.

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10. The tandem printing system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said tandem control unit further includes means for controlling the plurality of
printers to carry out automatic loading of the
35 continuous recording sheet in synchronism with each other.

11. The tandem printing system as claimed
in claim 8, wherein said tandem control unit further
includes means for setting a non-printing transport
mode in which no printing is carried out and only
5 transport of the continuous recording sheet is made,
with respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary
printers of the plurality of printers.

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12. The tandem printing system as claimed
in claim 9, wherein said tandem control unit further
includes means for controlling the plurality of
15 printers to carry out automatic loading of the
continuous recording sheet in synchronism with each
other.

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13. The tandem printing system as claimed
in claim 12, wherein said tandem control unit
further includes means for setting a non-printing
25 transport mode in which no printing is carried out
and only transport of the continuous recording sheet
is made, with respect to one or a plurality of
arbitrary printers of the plurality of printers.

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14. The tandem printing system as claimed
in claim 9, wherein said tandem control unit further
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mode in which no printing is carried out and only
transport of the continuous recording sheet is made,

with respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary
printers of the plurality of printers.

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